6: Sauer--115 G-5 (1785-94) 1802 Yakut
116, 262, 484

"In their roving parties, on the chase or travelling, they only take with them a scanty supply of koumis, depending on chance for the rest; and should their pursuits prove unfortunate, they find their food in the inner bark of the pines and birch-trees, or the different edible roots. Squirrels are very good eating, but their favourite food is the whistling marmot."

7: Shklovsky -- 217 T-3 (1891-92)1916 Yakut
116, 437, 484

"At one time Yakutsk sent out a body of explorers, who with little means accomplished more than other expeditions which were better equipped. Among them were Michael Stadukin, Dejnev, who discovered the strait between the two continents, Nikita Shallaourov, Lakhov, Bakhov, Laptev, Pavloutski, and Sergent Andreef, who first brought news of having seen land beyond Bear Island. At that time Yakutsk was the centre to which went all the energetic, enterprising, and adventurous, also those who wanted rich furs. Trade in furs still goes on there, but the traders take no interest in anything beyond the furs they get, for which they pay in vodka. If the modern Yakut knew anything of the former gererations of trader-explorers, he might with reason be proud of them, but they perished, like the race of giants, leaving no trace."

11: Lansdell--305-306 M-3 (1879) 1882 Yakut
116, 205, 484

"The distance from Yakutsk to Okhotsk is 800 miles [306] and the journey, whether undertaken in summer or winter, is one of the severest. The map gives one the idea that it might almost be accomplished by ascending the river Aldan and one of its affluents to the Stanovoi mountains. The usual plan, however, is to leave Yakutsk on horseback, with all the luggage on pack-saddles. Some estimate may be formed of the traffic once passing on this route from the fact that there were formerly employed in it from 20,000 to 30,000 horses. The postal service is still continued between Irkutsk and the Sea of Okhotsk; but there is no telegraph; hence the fact of Professor Nordenskjold having been frozen in the ice on the north-east coast of Siberia was brought a long way by courier before it could be made known by telegram to Europe.

One of the difficulties of the winter journey is the insufficient sleeping accommodation on the route. The houses, when they exist, are very bad, and when they fail, travellers sleep in a tent, or else upon furs and wraps in the open air. They usually lie, however, by a roaring fire, and so roast on one side whilst they freeze on the other--changing their position when need requires."

11: Lansdell--306-307 M-3 (1879) 1882 Yakut-1-2
116, 484, 492

"After proceeding for some distance the traveller [RCH: on a journey from Yakutsk to Okhotsk] has to exchange his horse for a novel kind of steed--a reindeer, on which the mere gaining of one's seat, to say nothing of keeping it, is by no means so easy as might be supposed.* Having gained his reindeer [307] seat, the English traveller may keep it--

> * To get on the animal's back, as one would mount a donkey, would probably cripple the deer for life. The saddle is therefore placed on its shoulder close to the neck, and to mount, the rider, holding the bridle, stands at the right side of the animal, with his face turned forwards. He then raises his left foot to the saddle, which he never touches with his hands, and springing with the right leg, and aided also by a pole, which he holds in his right hand, he gains his seat. The native girls and women are as expert in this jumping as the men, and rarely want assistance in mounting.

if he can. He will most likely fall off half-a-dozen times in the first quarter of an hour, until he discovers that he must poise himself in such a manner that his body may continually, and with ease, lend itself to a swinging motion.* There is a second lesson to be

> * The practised reindeer riders acquire the habit of striking gently with the heel, alternately right and left, at every step, just behind the animal's

> shoulders. This is done, not for the purpose of stimulating the deer, but because the motion described is the surest means of maintaining equilibrium. The staff, too, with which the rider mounts is carried in his hand, and is used for maintaining an equipoise in riding; but any attempt of the rider, in the first critical moment, to support himself by resting the staff on the ground, is sure to end in his being unseated.

learned by the uninitiated, which is usually imparted in a very impressive manner; for should the cavalier attempt to hold with the knees, and the cushion consequently slip back, the moment the weight is felt on the animal's back, he bends under his haunches and lets the rider slip to the ground, and that perhaps in ice, snow, or a pool of water.

As the traveller approaches Okhotsk he has again to change his mode of conveyance, to be drawn this time by dogs. All three methods of travel have their delights on this lonely journey, the tedium of which is sometimes relieved by an extemporary hunting scene.† [RCH: for text of footnote see category 116, pp. 307-308]"

16: Great Britain Admiralty -- 115 G-3 (no date) 1920 Yakut
116, 484, 609

"They [RCH: the Yukaghir] are hospitable to a fault, a fact which is known by their neighbours the Yakuts, who make protracted stays among them and eat up their fish."

37: Dobell--312 G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 484, 782, 823

"We travelled to the source of the Ourak, crossed three very steep mountains, and descending, passed a large lake, the source of the river Udama, surrounded by mountains, and three or four versts in length. On the trees that skirted the road, at the tops of these mountains, I observed a considerable quantity of horse-hair, tied in little bunches to the branches, which my guide informed me were offerings to the gods of the mountains, made by the Yakuts who had crossed them without accident."

/193 cont./

122 iron stove, which we should no longer need in the yurts, as well
123 as our supplies and kitchen utensils, we presented to our friendly hostess, who could make good use of them. She also wanted to keep our dog Waltusch, but we could not bear to leave our faithful companion on two such difficult expeditions here in this climate obviously unfavorable to him and carried out our resolve to take him back to Irkutsk to his well-earned rest. He is now living out the rest of his days in quiet contemplation with a butcher there. According to the custom of the country, Mrs. Rjeschétnikow insisted on giving us a present in return and provided us with some fine fish for the trip. In addition, Czekanowsky received a Russian-style fur cap, the crown of which was made of dark fox
[291] paws and the brim of river beaver. I was given a Jakut /Yakut/ fur hood, likewise of fox paws and lined with squirrel skins, and a pair of huge mittens of the same kind of fur, beautifully embroidered at the wrists and provided with an opening through which
[171] one could put out one's hand without taking off the mitten. This extremely practical mitten is found /194/ throughout northern Siberia and is to be recommended to European soldiers and hunters.

493 During the cold season persons of rank here travel in com-
[484] pletely covered narten /Russ. narta, "sled"/, into which one crawls
[554] from the front and then, wrapped in soft and warm skins and covers, sleeps through the entire journey. They are so low that sitting up is impossible, and, of course, it is equally impossible to see anything of the region through which one passes -- reason enough for us to forgo this comfort and be content with our narten used up to now, equipped only with a kibitka.

122 On the afternoon of November 5 we took cordial leave of Mrs.
[132] Rjeschétnikow and drove off in a northerly direction, with a temperature of about -33° R., which during the night even dropped to -38° R. On the way we visited the family of our guide Atschkássow, with whom we exchanged a few presents, and on the evening of the following day reached some yurts which bear the name Kŭssŭr /Kyusyur/ and lie on the right shore of the river, diagonally across from the larger village of Bulún, the chief place on the lower Lena. We chose to stop here because our

/238 cont./

122 After a seven-hour trip -- the distance could at most amount
136 to 45 versts -- we reached the station of Bodogóle, where the inhabitants told us something about the hunting here. Concerning big game here, there is first of all the common mountain sheep
[321] (tschubukún), whose meat is said to be very tasty. The skin is also highly valued and carved work is made out of the horns; /239/ we saw only a few small spoons very simply worked. The elk is found everywhere; on the other hand there are hardly any beasts of prey at all, at least no wolves, which are found only to the north from the mountains to Kŏng-urách, but then are completely absent as far as Jakutsk /Yakutsk/; the glutton, whose pelt is eagerly sought by the Jakuten /Yakut/ for fur caps, is found only very rarely; as for fur-bearing animals, there are many squirrels (also flying and striped ones) and ermine, and, it seems, sable.

122 Below the station of Bodogóle the mountains west of the
[133] route become lower and eminences covered with forest appear. To be sure, on the right bank of the river Antimirdjách one again sees barren peaks, but they soon recede and the range then disappears altogether. Once again on this day, at the end of a very wretched trip, we had to resort to a log house built in exactly the same style as the one of two days before. The local name for these houses is powárnja, i.e., kitchen. Although this powárnja had been built only a few months ago, it was almost of even less use than the earlier one, and again we had to sleep in our traveling clothes. Fortunately it was for the last time, for the day's trip of December 5 brought us to the station of Tánda, which lies on the left bank of the Aldán, and from here on a more densely populated
439 region begins. Before we reached Tánda we met the Jakutsk
● 484 merchant Gawriíl Feofánow Ssolowjów with his entire caravan, who likewise carries on trade with Kolýmsk, although not directly, but rather by way of the settlement Rússkoje Ustje (i.e., Russian river-mouth) on the Indigírka. We were interested to learn from him -- we had stopped at a yurt along the way -- that he had formerly sent regularly organized expeditions to the New Siberian Islands, which had brought back to him rich booty in mammoth tusks. He had /240/ not undertaken any for many years because

/240 cont./

439 of the great dangers of the trip, but now he was considering it
● 484 again, for he rightly assumed that in the course of the years a great deal of fossil ivory must have been washed out there again. He also expressed to us his willingness, in case the Imperial Geographical Society planned a journey of exploration to those islands, to support it whole-heartedly and perhaps even accompany it himself, but in any case he would furnish dogs and guides.

122 After we crossed the Aldán, which has quite low banks here, quite late in the evening because of the stop, we reached the station after two more versts, from which we could not depart until after noon on the next day because we had to give our reindeer a rest. In spite of this they were so exhausted that the Jakuten /Yakut/ had to walk alongside during the whole trip, and only with difficulty by means of a six-hour journey were we able to drag ourselves to the next station, Katyngnátskije, scarcely 30 versts away. It was certainly not a brilliant conclusion to our long reindeer journey. From here on to Jakutsk /Yakutsk/ we were to be transported by horses, but great difficulties arose as a result of the lack of suitable vehicles, for here for the most part one only travels by riding. After long deliberation the Jakuten /Yakut/ finally agreed to hitch a horse in front of each narte, and thus on December 7 at about 9:00 in the morning we were able to set out
122 again. The horses took us on somewhat faster than the exhausted
731 reindeer, but that did not help us much. Obviously the post arrangements were still in their infancy here, but that was the least of it -- in an emergency help could have been requested from the governor through a messenger, for we were still only about 150 versts from Jakutsk -- the specter of a terrible /241/ smallpox epidemic loomed before us. Dark rumors about it had already reached us -- they still fell short of the reality. Everywhere along our way and in almost all the stations the stricken and dead were said to be lying about, but we nevertheless had to go in, because a journey with the mercury frozen is impossible, in spite of the warmest clothing, without occasionally getting warm.

T 131 361 /37 cont./ been visiting for a long time, here on the Malmalty River (6).

6. Schmidt, "Histor. Ber.," etc., p. 167.

T [233] In fact, according to information collected by Ussolzef among the Birar (for him, "Manägern"), the Russian Tungus -- whom, moreover, he calls "Orotschonen." /Orochon/ throughout -- wander as nomads along the Bureja with their reindeer to the village of Schewaki, about a fourteen-days' trip from the mouth of this river. They cannot go farther downstream with their reindeer, because they can find no fodder there for their animals, but still some of them come down to the mouth of the Bureja in bark canoes (7). In the train of the Tungus, or inviting them

T 439 563 V 439 443 [113]

7. Shvarts", Podrobn. otch. o rezul't izslied. Matemat. Otd. Sibirsk. Eksp. Geogr. Obshch., Ch. I, p. 51.

along /38/ enterprising Yakut traders also travel over the Stanovoi Mountains and sometimes settle down for a longer period of time in the Chinese territory along the Bureja /Bureya/ or Dseja /Zeya/ and their tributaries. Middendorff estimated that in his time there were about 25 traders from Yakutsk on the move, sometimes on this side, sometimes on that side of the Dseja and Bureja Range (1).

1. Op. cit., p. 168.

One Yakut lived permanently at the above-mentioned gathering place of the Birar, Manegir, and Russian Tungus on the Inkanj; others came from time to time with various wares and necessities from Yakutsk as well as from the Udskoi ostrog. Some of them likewise settled side by side and with the Tungus along the Kebeli and Niman; indeed, at the former place a Yakut had already been in residence for six years. Middendorff's Yakut guide (Wantscha) had himself visited the Jorach, a tributary of the Bureja, 18 years earlier. Another Yakut (Trofim), with

V 484

Y /38 cont./
484 whom he traveled for a time, had even swum down the Bureja
T 26 years earlier to 60 versts above its mouth, where he came
439 upon a Chinese guard (2). Just as the Yakut follow the Russian

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2. Reise, etc., Vol. IV, p. 166, note 1. On the other hand, the report of the escape of 6,000 Yakut over the Russian border into the Amur region, first made known and elaborated by Billings, and later repeated by many others (Sauer, Capt. Jos. Billings' Geogr.-astronom. Reise nach den nördl. Gegend. Russlands zur Unters. der Münd. des Kowima-Flusses /Capt. Jos. Billings' Geographical-Astronomical Expedition to the Northern Regions of Russia to Investigate the Mouth of the Kowima River/, etc., transl. from the English, Berlin, 1802, pp. 367, 368), originated, according to Middendorff, simply because of confusion (Sauer had heard this story in the house of the ispravnik, Hornofskij, from the assessors, Ewers and Kyschkin), and such a mass crossing of the Yakut into Chinese territory never took place (see his Reise, etc., Vol. IV, p. 169). I must agree completely, for such a number of immigrants from such a vigorous, tough, and enterprising people as the Yakut would have attracted attention in the Amur region in any case, whereas in reality aside from the isolated traders, there were no traces of any Yakut there.

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439 Tungus, so, on the other hand, do the Daur follow the Chinese Birar and Manegir. With the same interest in trade as the former,